

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (withdrawn): A method for suppressing a reduction in an endoglucanase activity in the presence of a surfactant, characterized by modifying a protein having the endoglucanase activity in which the N-terminus is an amino acid other than pyroglutamic acid, to a protein according to claim 5, having the N-terminus of pyroglutamic acid.

2. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein the modification is carried out by adding pyroglutamic acid or an amino acid convertible into pyroglutamic acid, or a peptide having the N-terminus of pyroglutamic acid or an amino acid convertible into pyroglutamic acid, to the N-terminus of the protein having the endoglucanase activity in which the N-terminus is an amino acid other than pyroglutamic acid.

3. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein the modification is carried out by substituting pyroglutamic acid or an amino acid convertible into pyroglutamic acid, or a peptide having the N-terminus of pyroglutamic acid or an amino acid convertible into pyroglutamic acid, for the N-terminal amino acid or an N-terminal region of the protein having the endoglucanase activity in which the N-terminus is an amino acid other than pyroglutamic acid.

4. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein the protein having the endoglucanase activity in which the N-terminus is an amino acid other than pyroglutamic acid is a cellulase belonging to family 45.

5-6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): An isolated protein selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 38, or 40; and

~~(b) — a modified protein comprising an amino acid sequence in which one or plural amino acids are deleted, substituted, inserted, or added in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 38, or 40, and having an endoglucanase activity whose reduction in the presence of a surfactant is small; and~~

~~(e**b**) a homologous protein comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 85% homology identity with to a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 38, or 40, and having an endoglucanase activity whose reduction in the presence of a surfactant is small.~~

8. (withdrawn-currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide encoding the protein according to claim 57.

9. (withdrawn-currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 37, or 39; and

~~(b) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence in which one or plural nucleotides are deleted, substituted, inserted, or added in the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 37, or 39, and encoding a protein having an endoglucanase activity whose reduction in the presence of a surfactant is small; and~~

~~(c)~~(b) a polynucleotide hybridizing under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 37, or 39, and encoding a protein having an endoglucanase activity ~~whose reduction in the presence of a surfactant is small.~~

10. (withdrawn): An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 8.

11. (withdrawn): A host cell transformed with the expression vector according to claim 10.

12. (withdrawn): The host cell according to claim 11, wherein the host cell is a yeast or filamentous fungus.

13. (withdrawn): The host cell according to claim 12, the filamentous fungus is a microorganism belonging to genus *Humicola* or *Trichoderma*.

14. (withdrawn): The host cell according to claim 13, the filamentous fungus is *Humicola insolens* or *Trichoderma viride*.

15. (withdrawn): A process for producing the protein according to claim 5, comprising:
cultivating a host cell transformed with an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide encoding the protein, and
recovering the protein from the host cell or culture obtained by the cultivation.

16. (currently amended): A protein produced by ~~the process according to claim 15~~
the steps comprising:
cultivating a host cell transformed with an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide encoding the protein according to claim 7, and recovering the protein from the host cell or culture obtained by the cultivation.

17. (withdrawn): The method according to 2, wherein the protein having the endoglucanase activity in which the N-terminus is an amino acid other than pyroglutamic acid is a cellulase belonging to family 45.

18. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 3, wherein the protein having the endoglucanase activity in which the N-terminus is an amino acid other than pyroglutamic acid is a cellulase belonging to family 45.

19-20. (canceled). The modified protein according to claim 2.